

KRISHNADEVA RAYA

The king of Vijayanagara, Vira Narasimha, was very ill. He was afraid that after his death, his much loved and popular brother, Krishnadeva Raya, would seize the throne from his little son. So he asked a trusted minister to put Krishnadeva to death. The conscience-stricken minister could not perform such a heinous deed and convinced the bewildered prince to escape. Fate had already decreed that Krishnadeva Raya would one day rule the Vijayanagara empire and take it to its zenith of glory.

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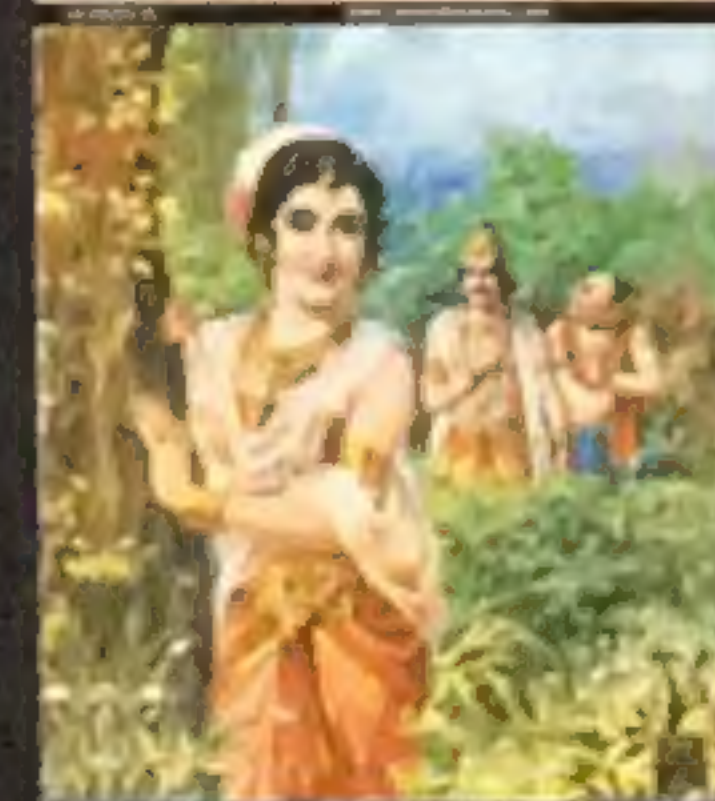
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KRISHNADEVA RAYA

THE ILLUSTRIOUS KING OF VIJAYANAGARA

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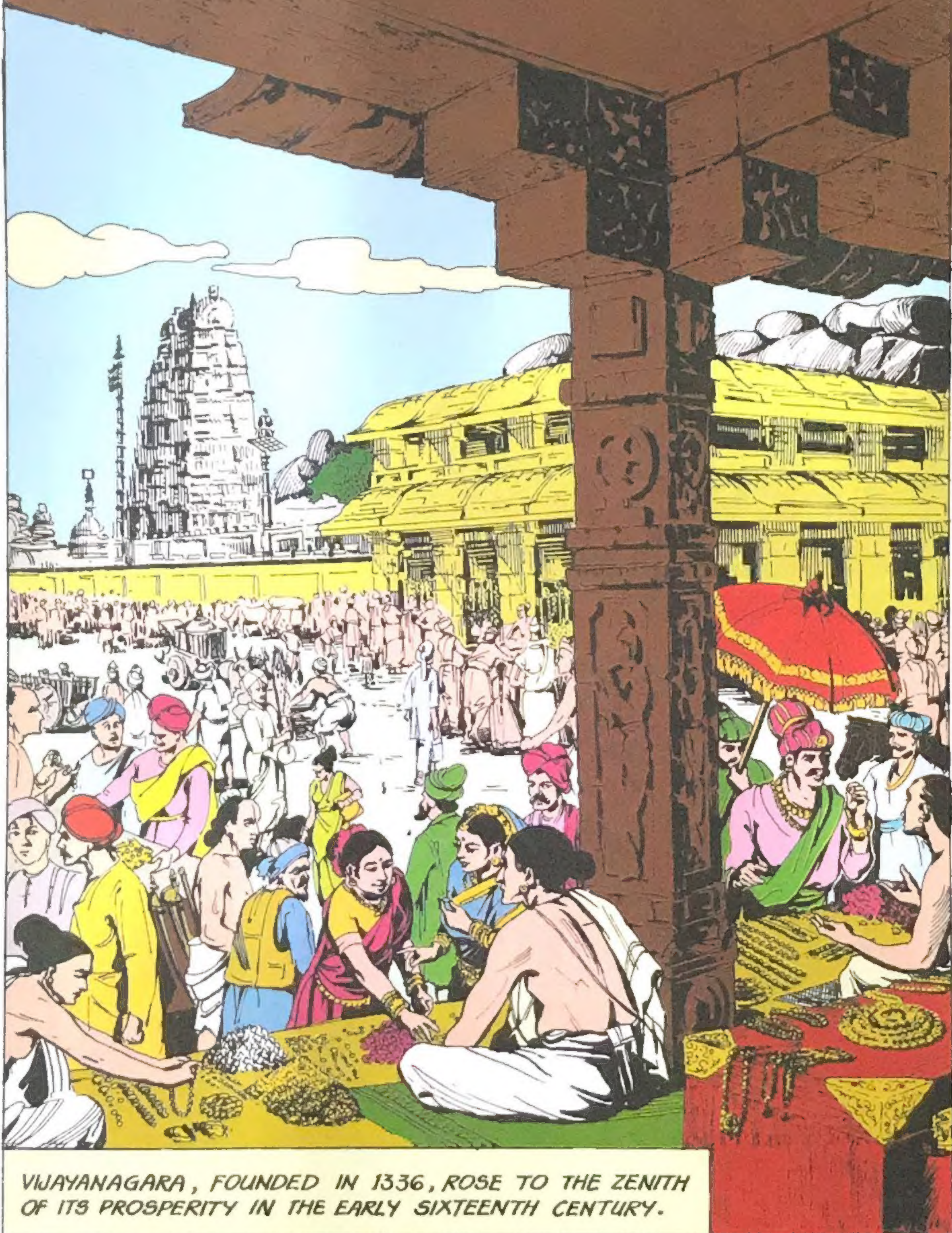


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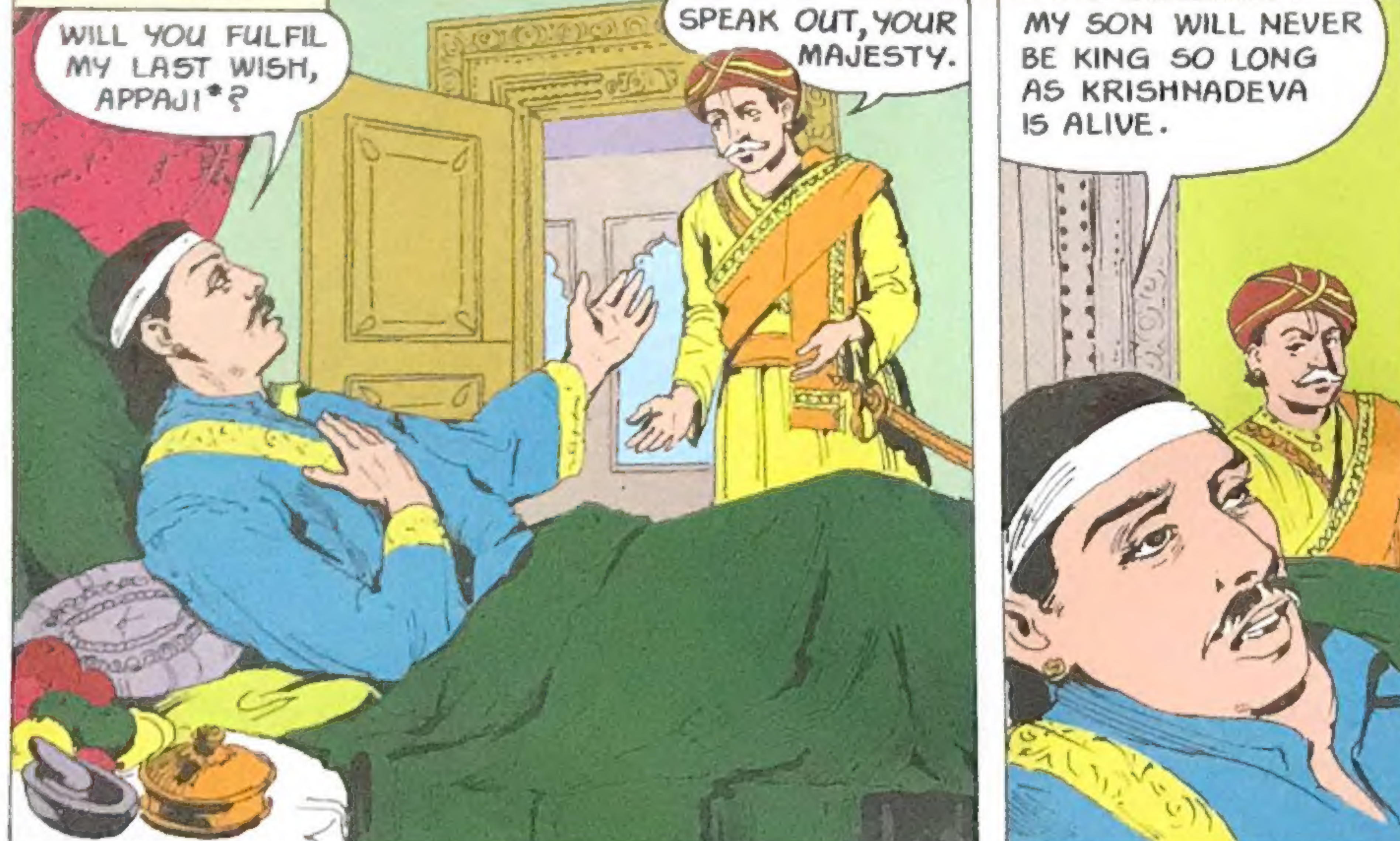


VIJAYANAGARA, FOUNDED IN 1336, ROSE TO THE ZENITH OF ITS PROSPERITY IN THE EARLY SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

IN 1509, VIRA NARASIMHA, KING OF VIJAYANAGARA, FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. IN THE CAPITAL, PEOPLE WONDERED WHO WOULD SUCCEED HIM.



BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE KING WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WAS BEST FOR HIS SON.



* MINISTER THIMMARASU WAS AFFECTIONATELY ADDRESSED AS APPAJI.



WHEN THIMMARASU CAME OUT, HE MET KRISHNADEVA.



THEN THE MINISTER LOWERED HIS VOICE.



THIMMARASU SPENT A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.



THE NEXT DAY —



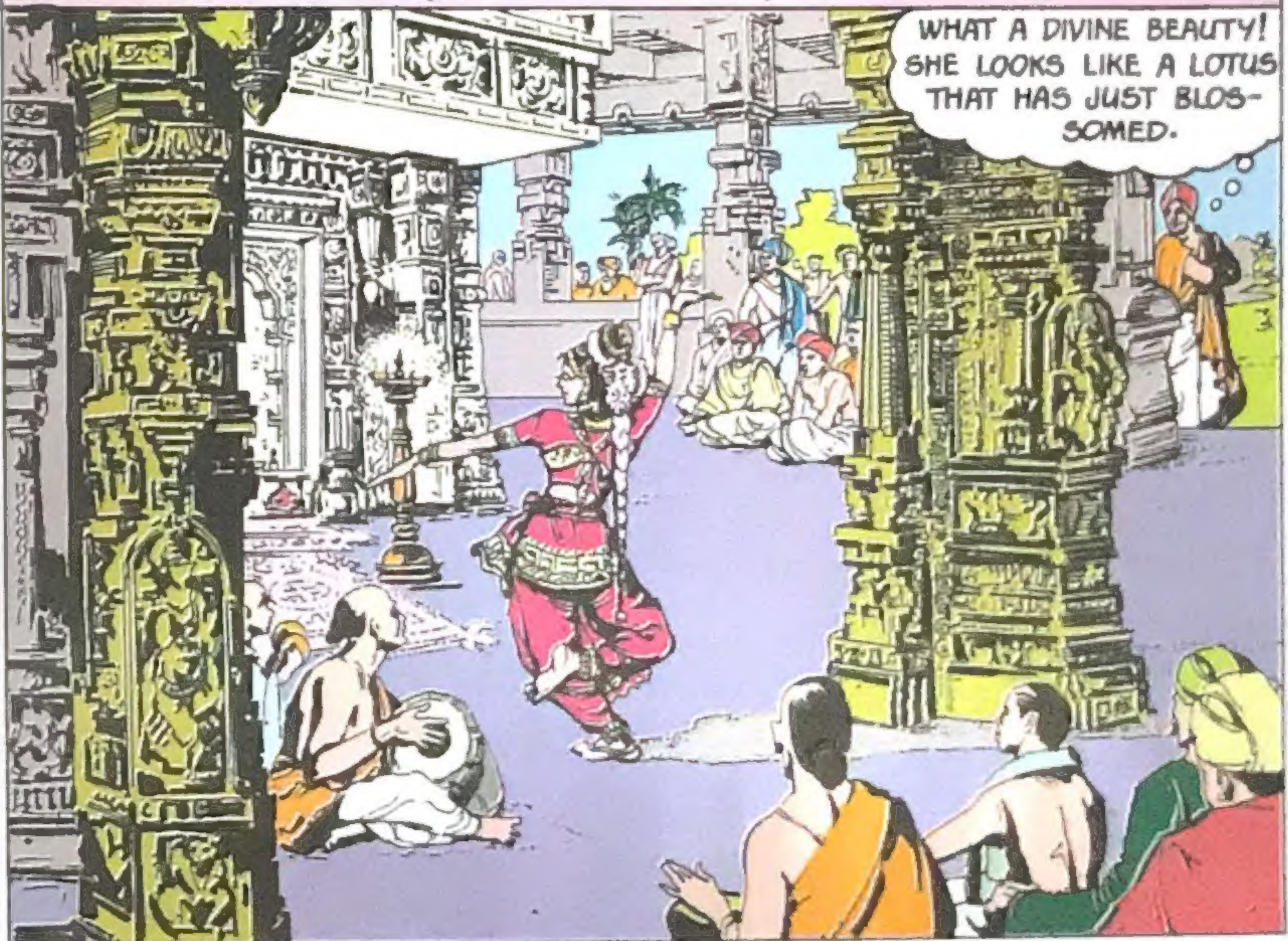
THAT NIGHT —

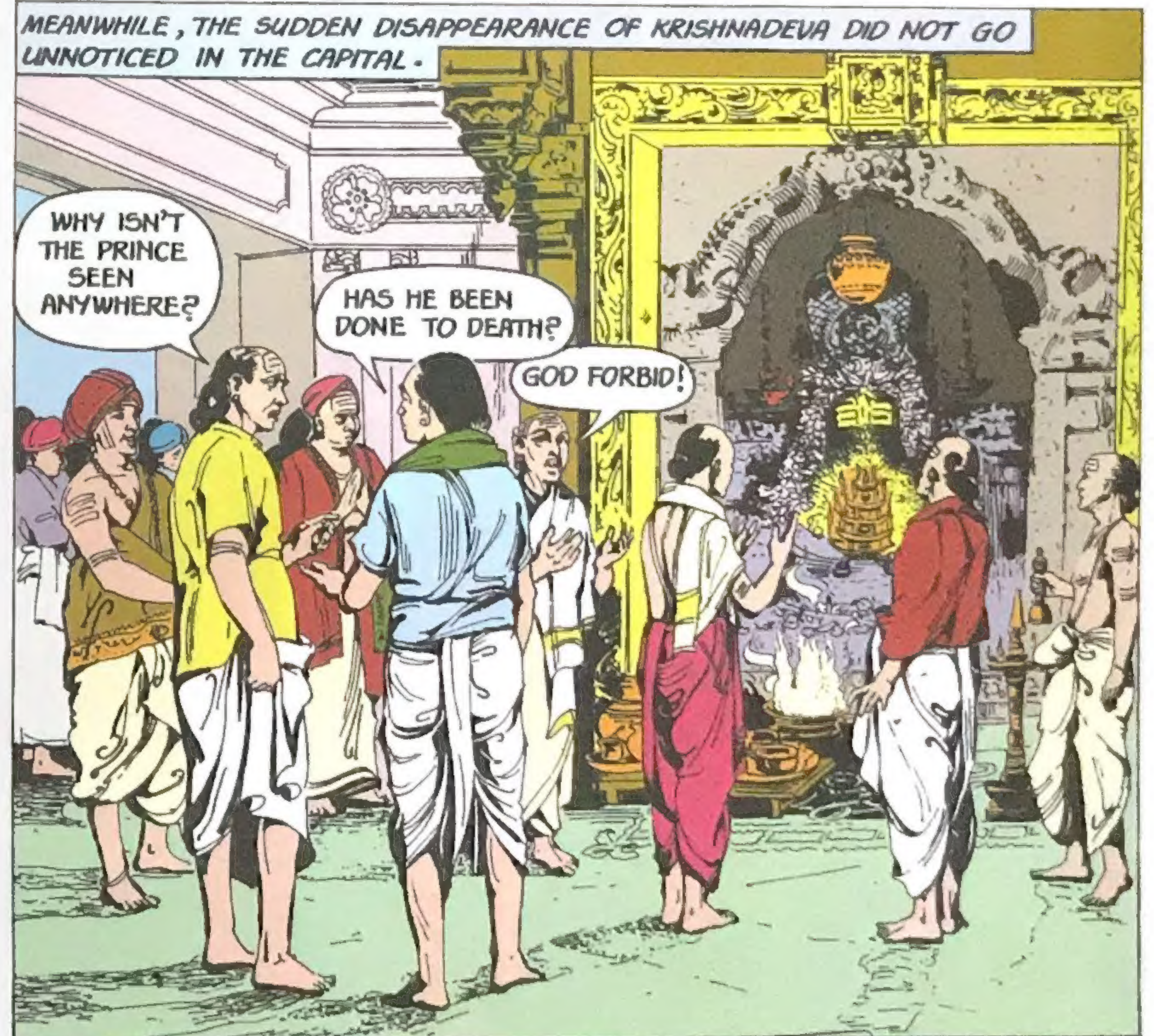
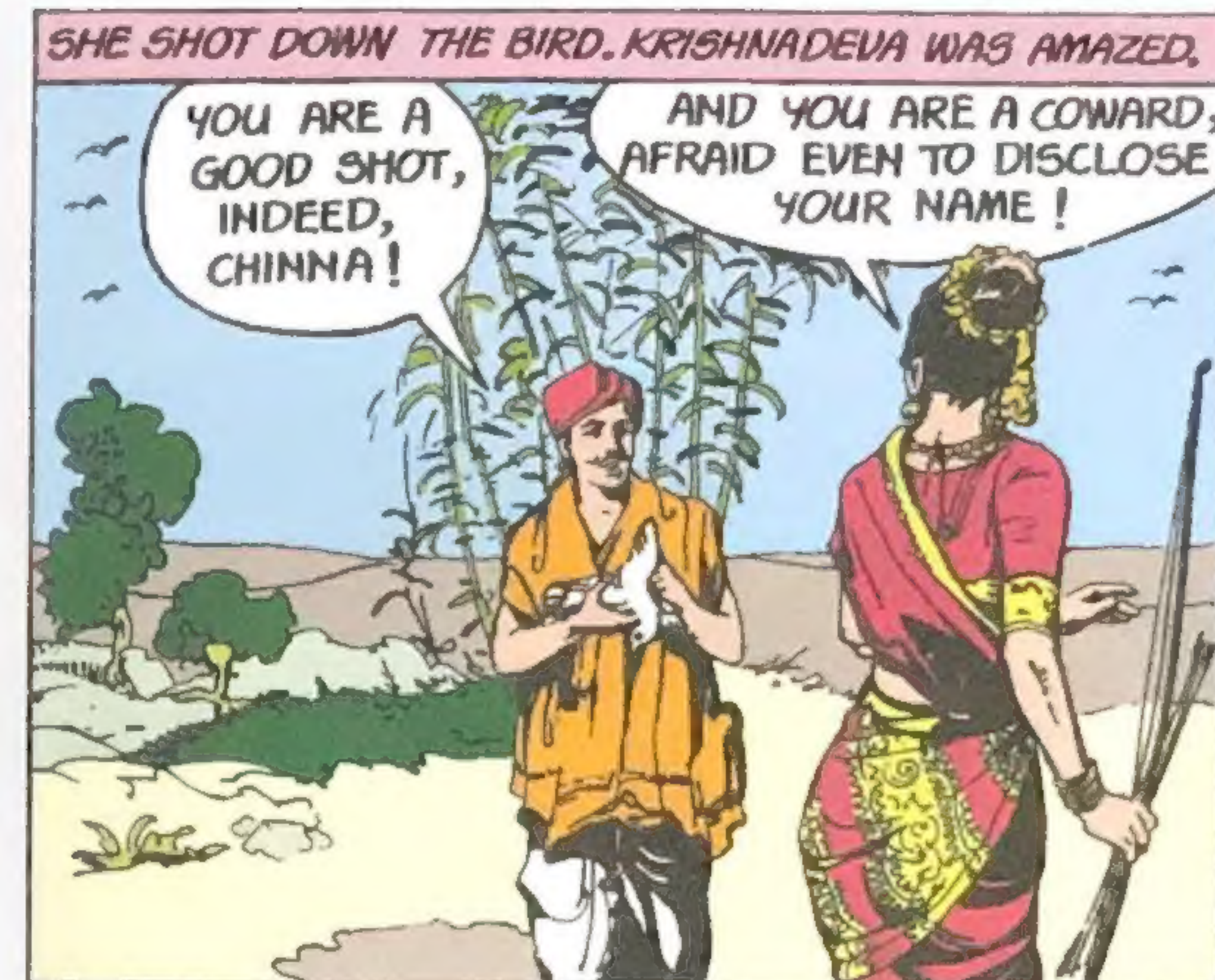
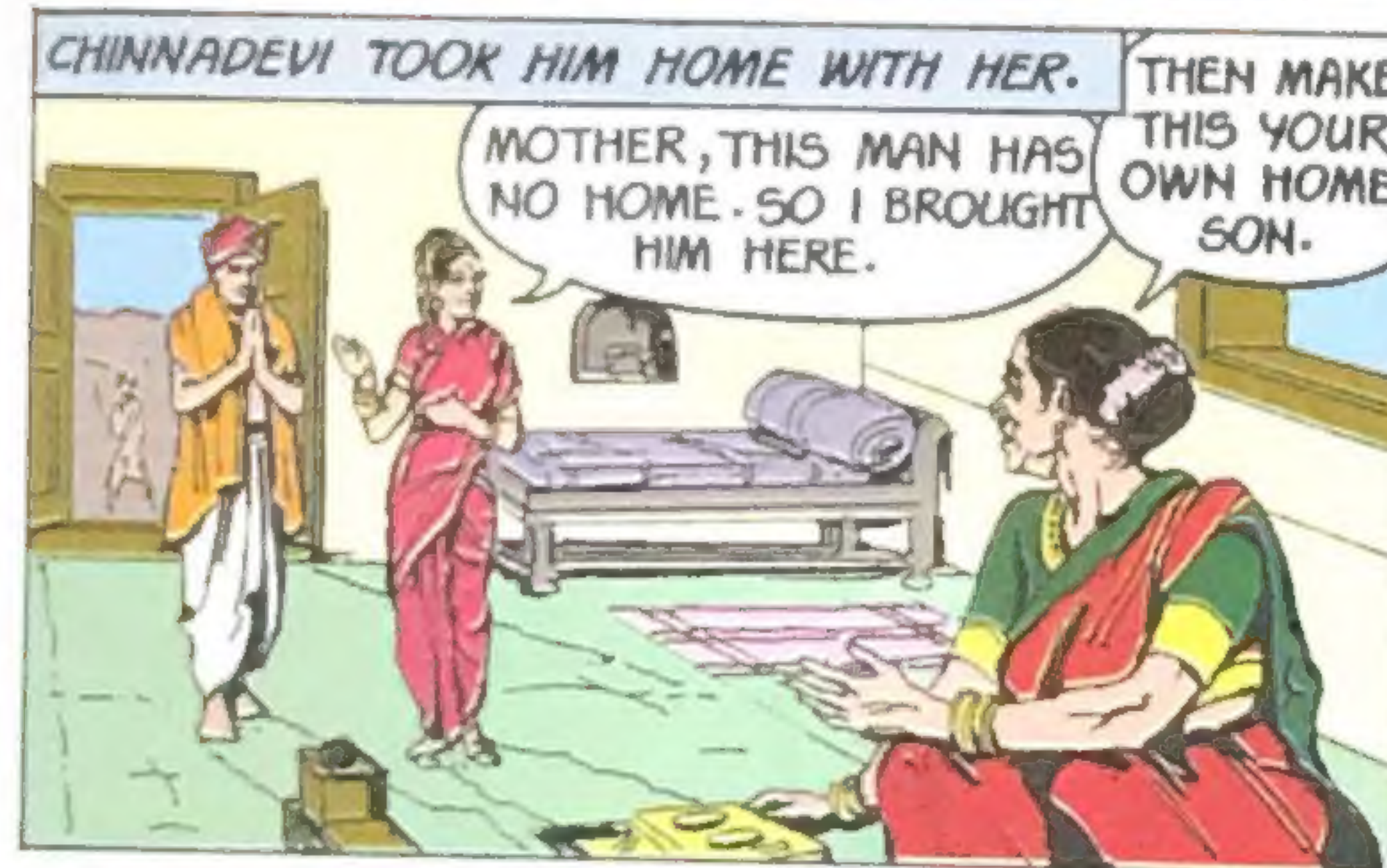


THIMMARASU THEN HAD A GOAT KILLED AND BROUGHT ITS EYES TO THE KING.



DAYS LATER, WHILE WANDERING INCOGNITO, KRISHNADEVA HAPPENED TO VISIT A TEMPLE WHERE CHINNADEVI, THE TEMPLE DANCER, WAS PERFORMING.





THE NEWS OF VIRA NARASIMHA'S ILLNESS AND KRISHNADEVA'S DISAPPEARANCE REACHED GULBARGA, THE CAPITAL OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING.



NOW IS THE TIME TO ATTACK VIJAYANAGARA AND MAKE IT OURS.

WHAT IF THE KING DIES AND KRISHNADEVA REAPPEARS TO SUCCEED HIM, YOUR MAJESTY?



THEN WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS INEXPERIENCE.



A FEW DAYS LATER, AT VIJAYANAGARA —

YOUR MAJESTY, THE BAHMANI KING IS PLANNING TO INVAD

MY KINGDOM IS IN DANGER! I MUST LEAD MY MEN...



YOUR MAJESTY, COMPOSE YOURSELF. YOU ARE NOT FIT TO WALK EVEN A FEW STEPS.



ALAS! I AM AN INVALID. THE PRINCE IS A MERE CHILD. AND KRISHNA, WHO COULD HAVE ABLY DEFENDED THE KINGDOM, IS NO MORE. APPAJI, WHY DID YOU LET ME HAVE MY WAY?

THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR KRISHNADEVA TO COME BACK.



KRISHNADEVA IS ALIVE, YOUR MAJESTY. FORGIVE ME, I DID NOT OBEY YOUR COMMAND.



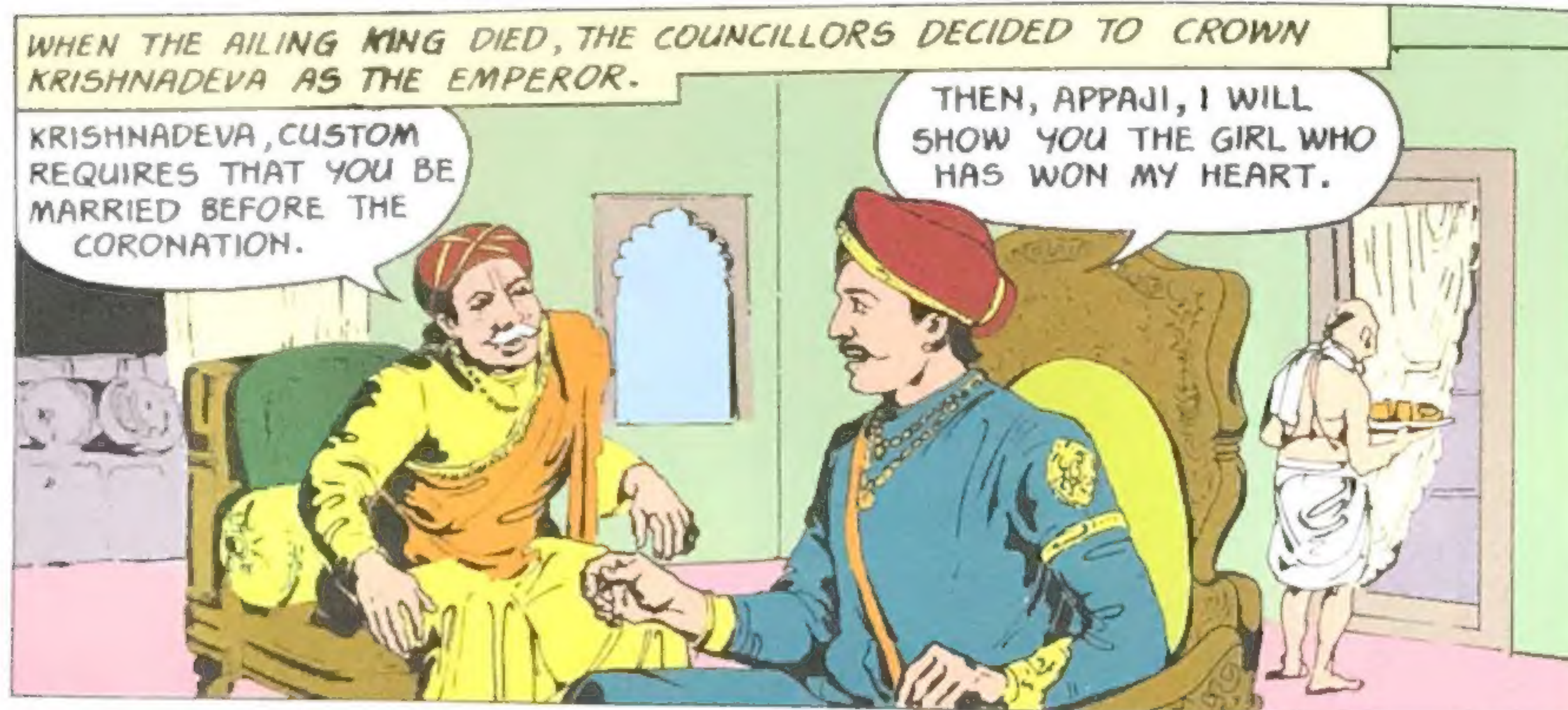
FORGIVE YOU, APPAJI? I AM INDEBTED TO YOU! YOU HAVE SAVED ME FROM THE SIN OF KILLING A BROTHER.



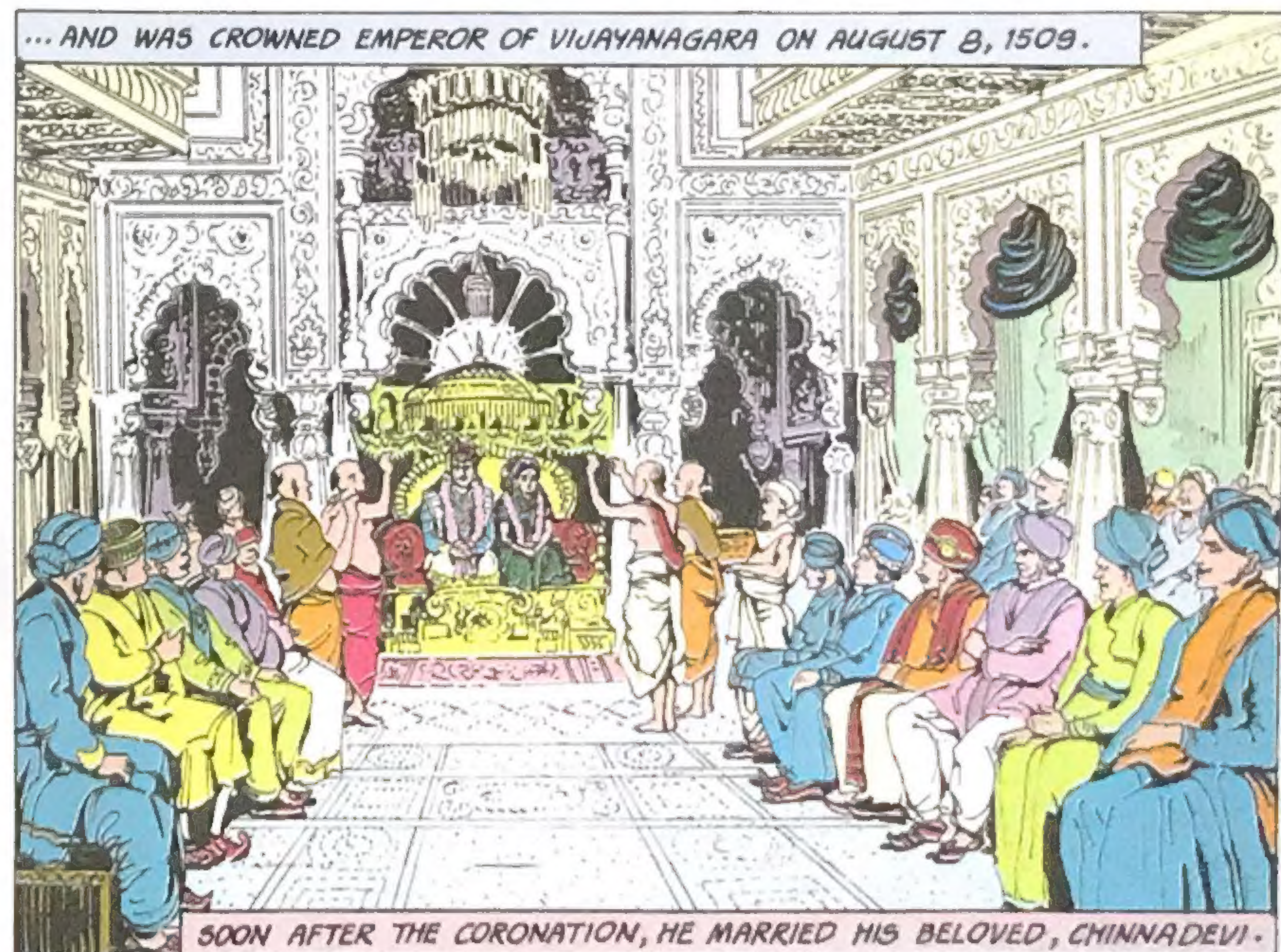
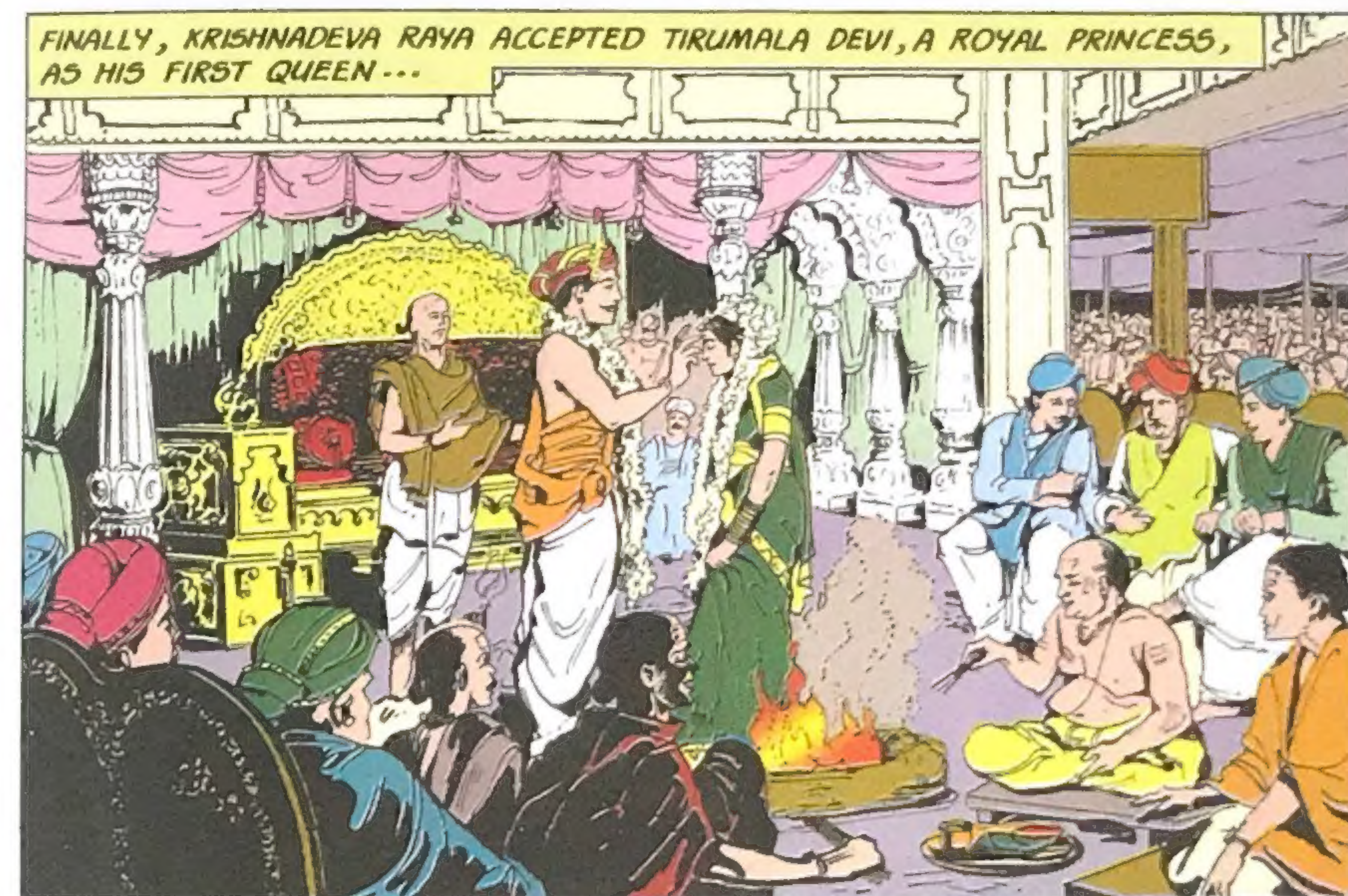
LATER, WHEN THIMMARASU BROUGHT KRISHNADEVA TO MEET THE KING —

KRISHNA, FORGIVE ME. I HAVE DONE YOU A GREAT WRONG. AFTER ME, YOU MUST SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF RULING THE KINGDOM.

LET BYGONES BE BYGONES, YOUR MAJESTY.



* THE FIRST WIFE OF A KING SHOULD BE A WOMAN OF NOBLE BIRTH. 10



MEANWHILE, THE BAHMANI KING HAD COMPLETED THE PREPARATION FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND REACHED DIWANI WHERE KRISHNADEVA RAYA GAVE HIM BATTLE.



THE BAHMANI ARMY HAD TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.



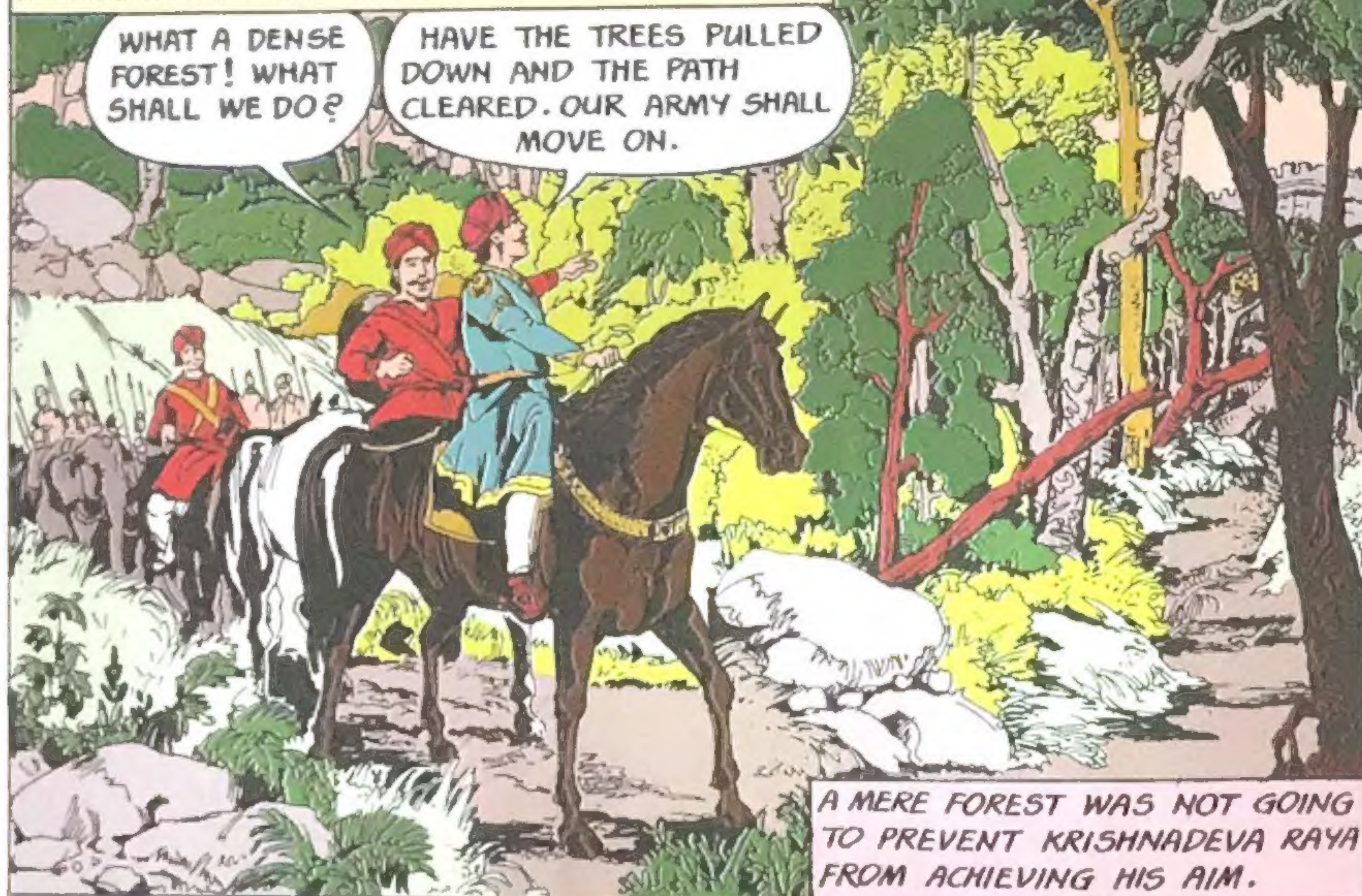
LATER, KRISHNADEVA RAYA ADDRESSED HIS ARMY.



AT UDAIGIRI, HIS INACCESSIBLE FORT, PRATAPA RUDRA, KING OF KALINGA, WAS AMUSED TO HEAR ABOUT KRISHNADEVA RAYA'S PLANS TO ATTACK HIM.

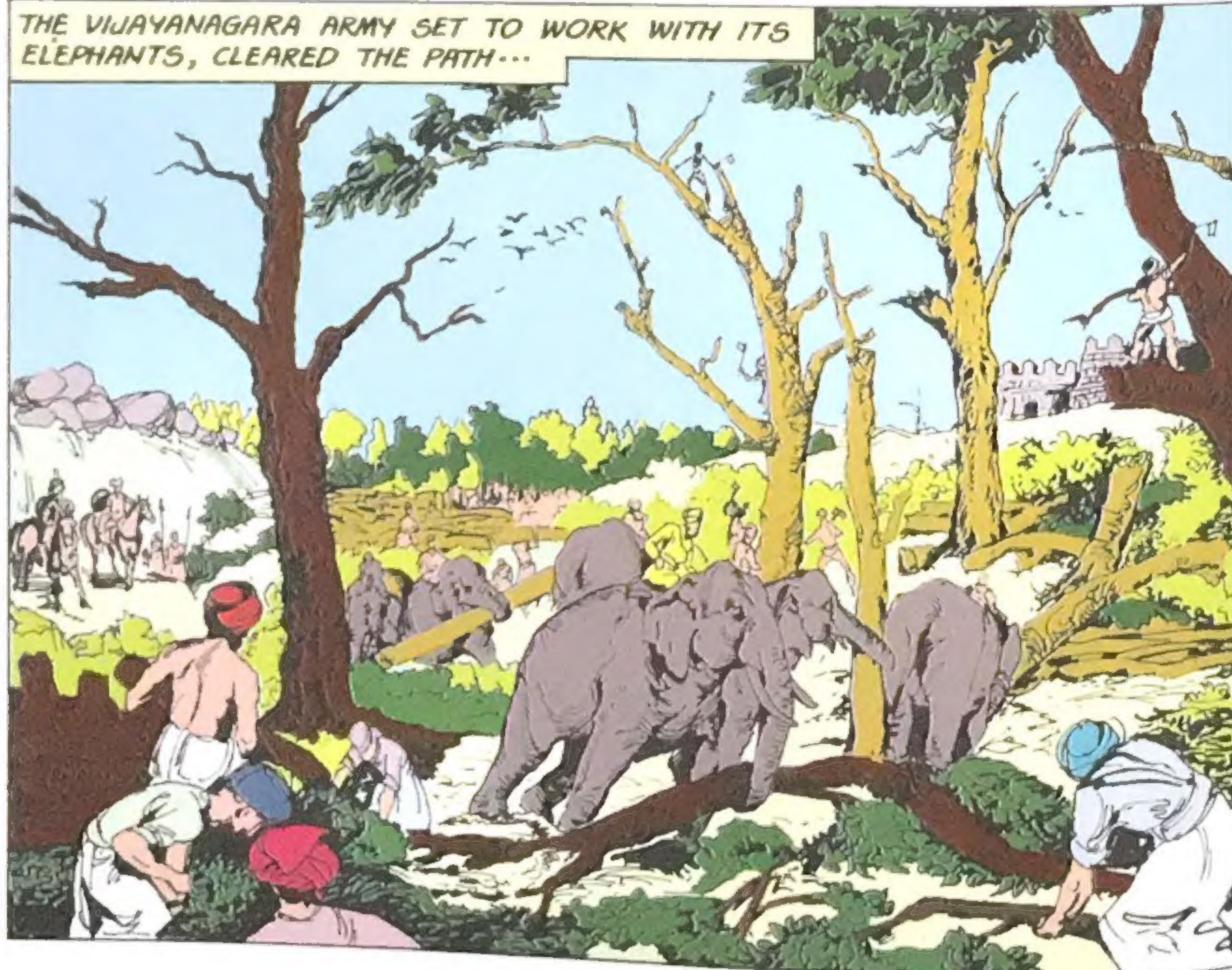


KRISHNADEVA RAYA PERSONALLY LED THE ARMY.

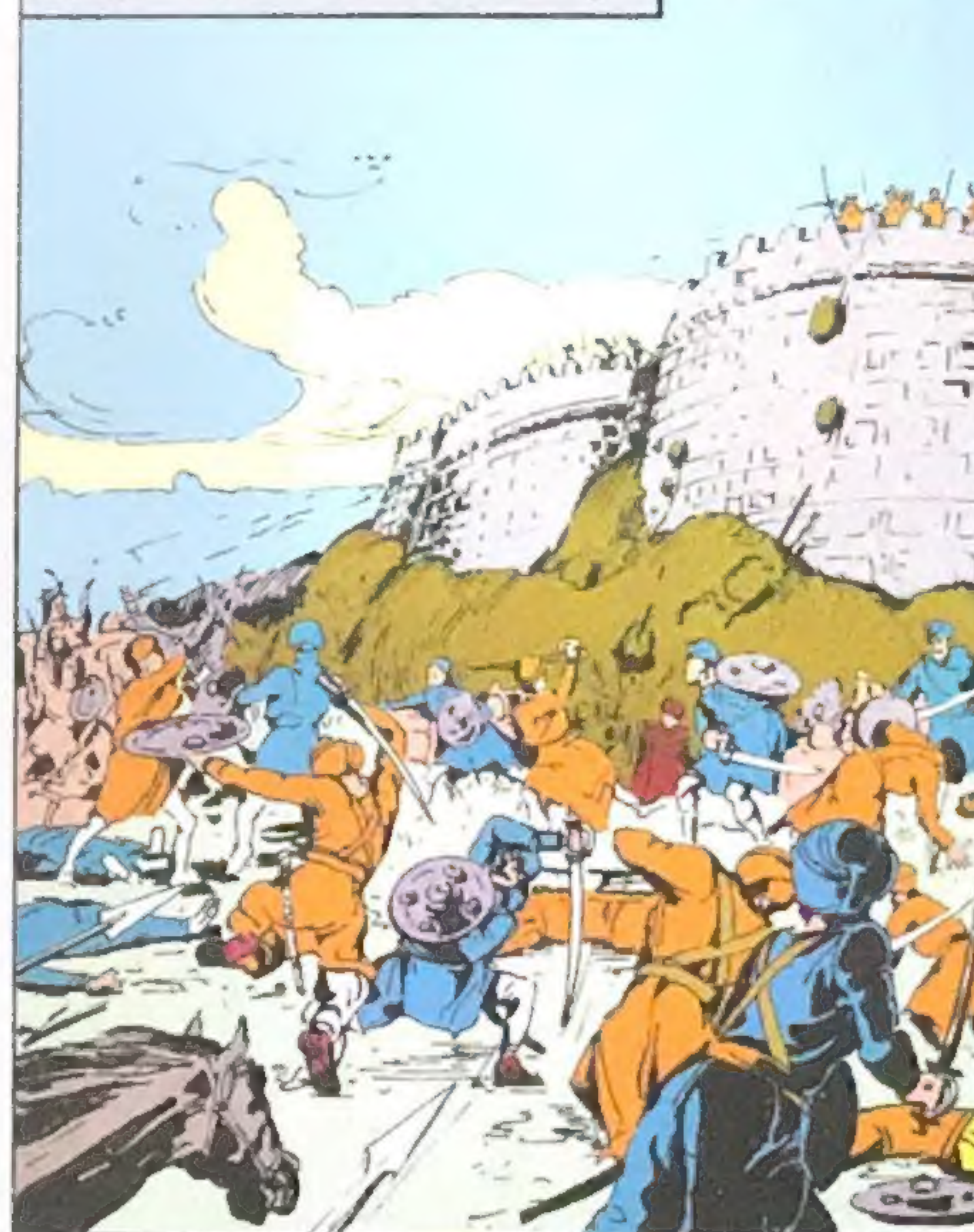


A MERE FOREST WAS NOT GOING TO PREVENT KRISHNADEVA RAYA FROM ACHIEVING HIS AIM.

THE VIJAYANAGARA ARMY SET TO WORK WITH ITS ELEPHANTS, CLEARED THE PATH...



... REACHED UDAIGIRI, SCALED THE FORT AND ATTACKED!



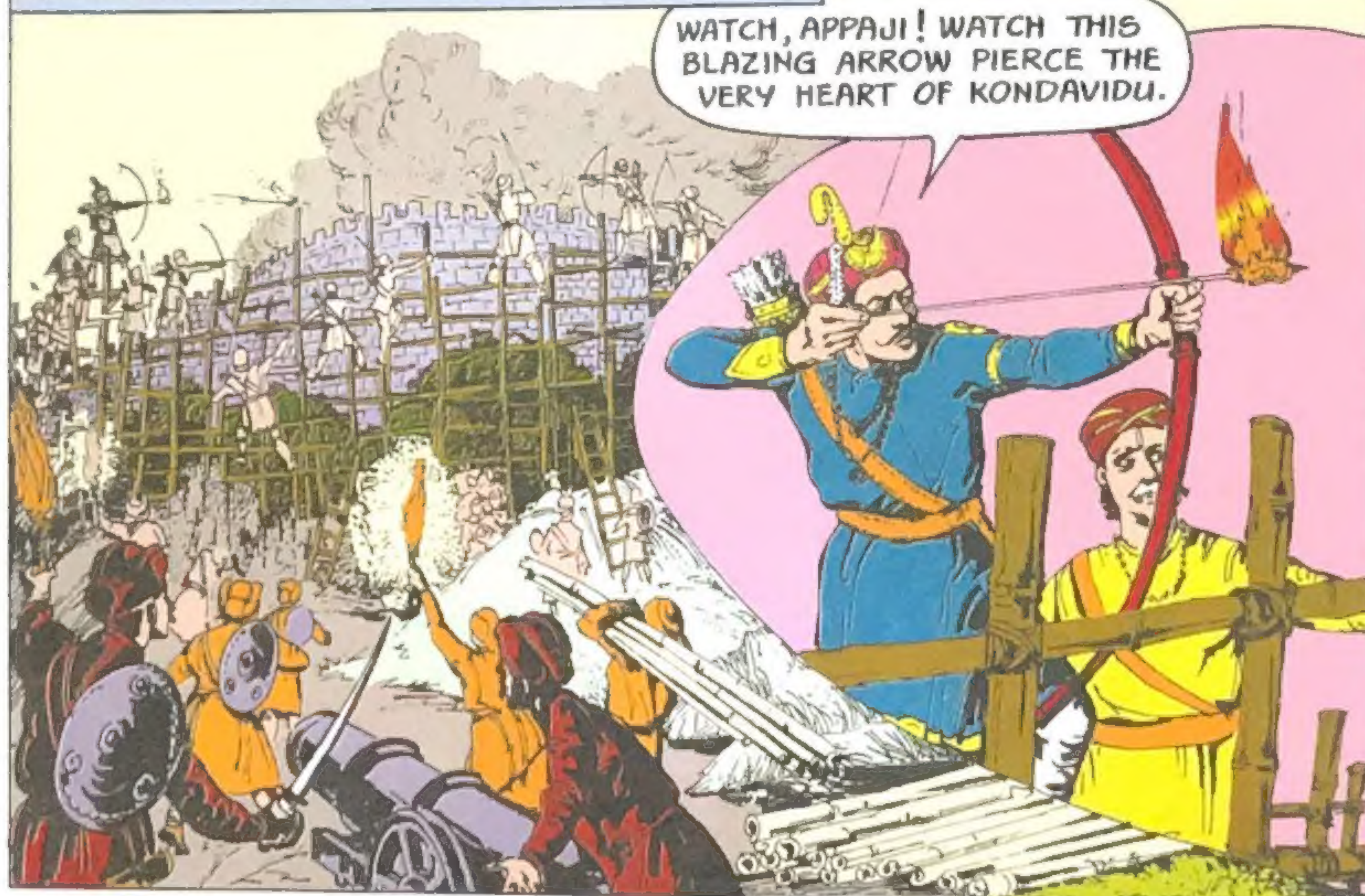
TIRUMALA RAUT COULD NOT HOLD OUT FOR LONG.



BUT THE VIJAYANAGARA ARMY, ON REACHING KONDAVIDU, FOUND IT HARD TO SCALE THE STRONG FORT.



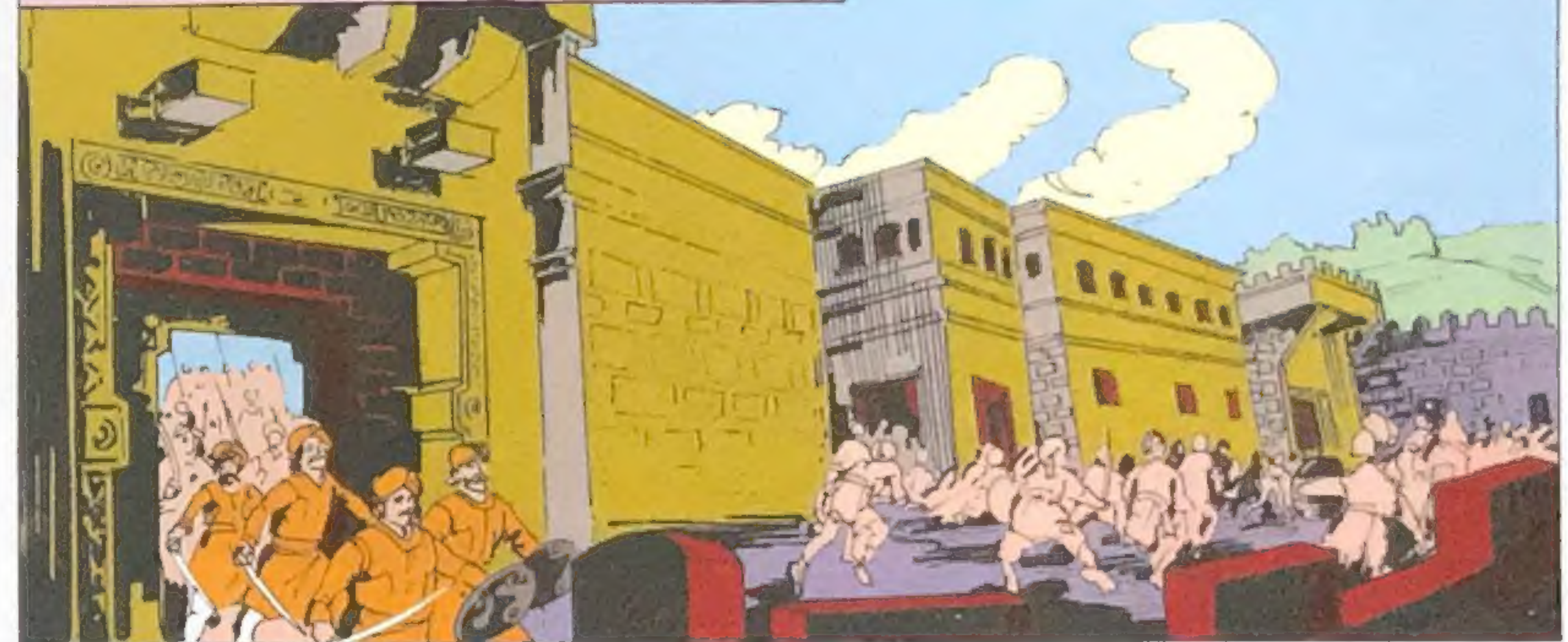
THE VIJAYANAGARA SOLDIERS GOT DOWN TO WORK. AS SOON AS THE SCAFFOLDS ROSE AS HIGH AS THE FORT —



THE ARROW FOUND ITS MARK. HEAPS OF GRAIN DEEP WITHIN THE FORT, CAUGHT FIRE.



IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, KRISHNADEVA AND HIS ARMY ENTERED THE FORT AND EFFORTLESSLY TOOK IT.



AT POTANUR, PRATAPA RUDRA WAS WORRIED.



THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS SOON ARRIVED AT POTANUR.





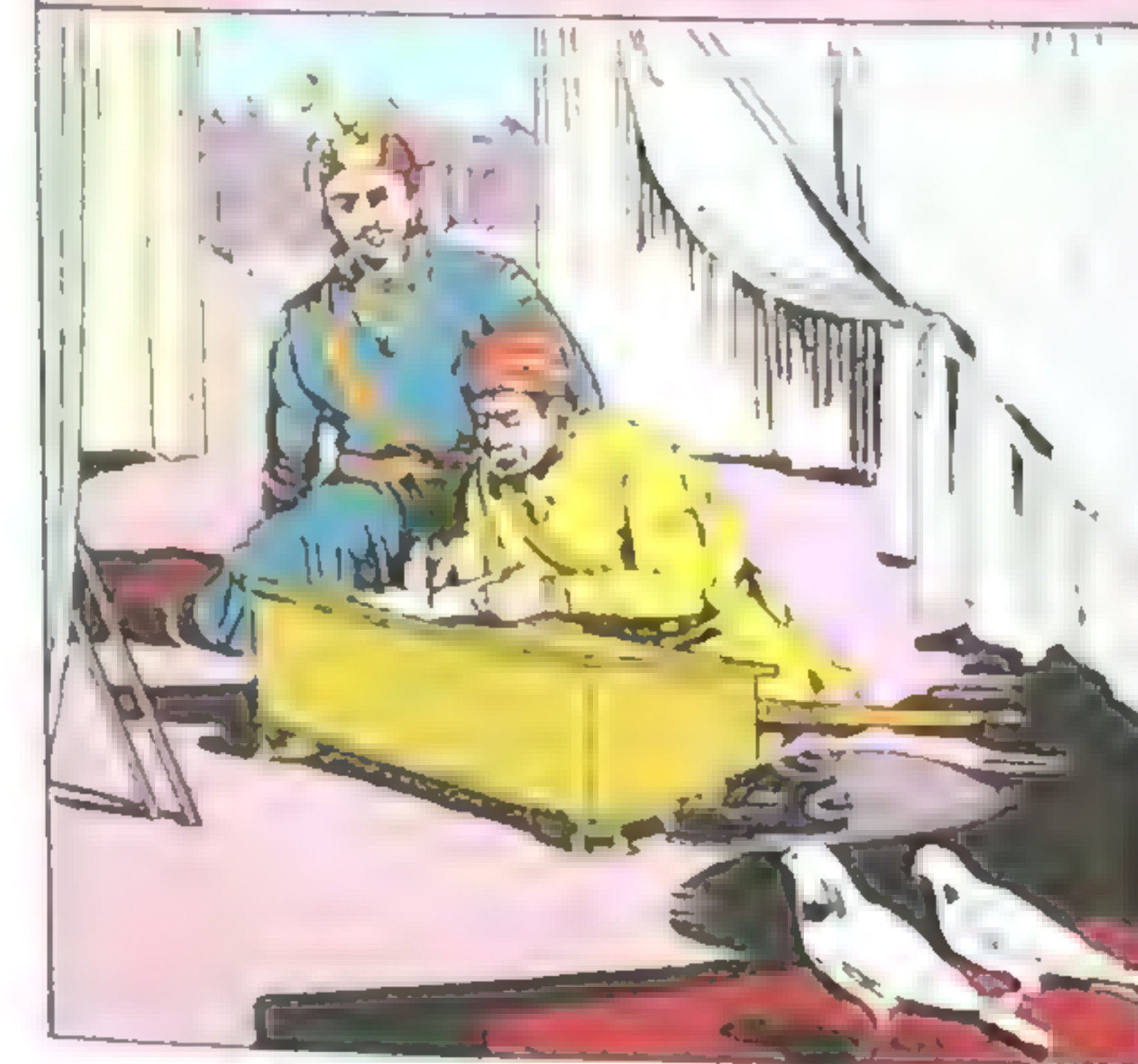
THUS PRATAPA RUDRA WAS FULLY PREPARED WHEN KRISHNADEVA RAYA LAID SIEGE TO POTANUR.



THE BATTLE CONTINUED FOR MONTHS. KRISHNADEVA RAYA WAS WORRIED.



THIMMARASU WROTE A LETTER TO HIS SECRET AGENT INSIDE THE FORT.



HE THEN TIED THE LETTER TO THE FOOT OF A HOMING PIGEON, AND SET IT FREE.

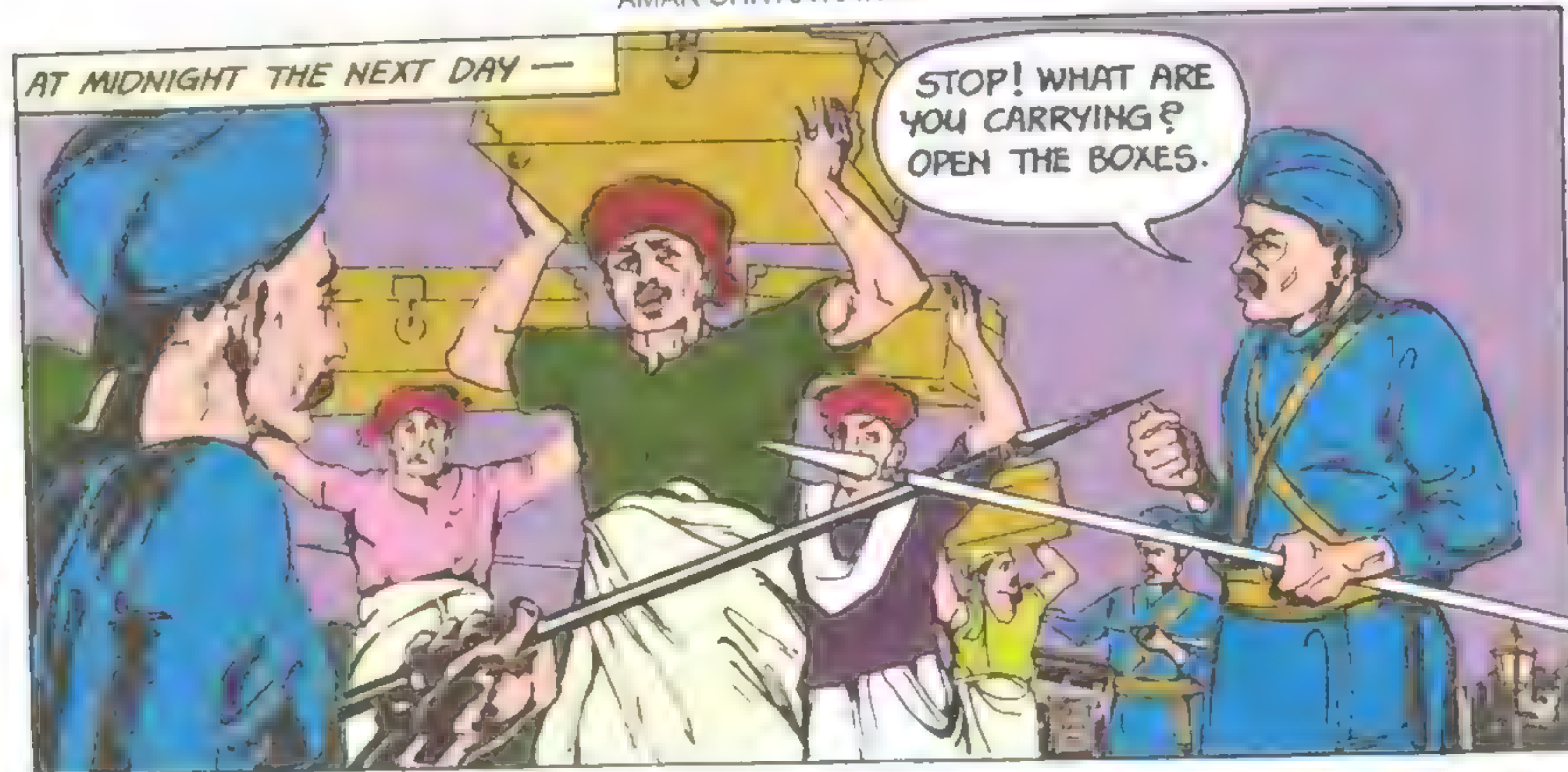


THE BIRD FLEW STRAIGHT TO THE AGENT.

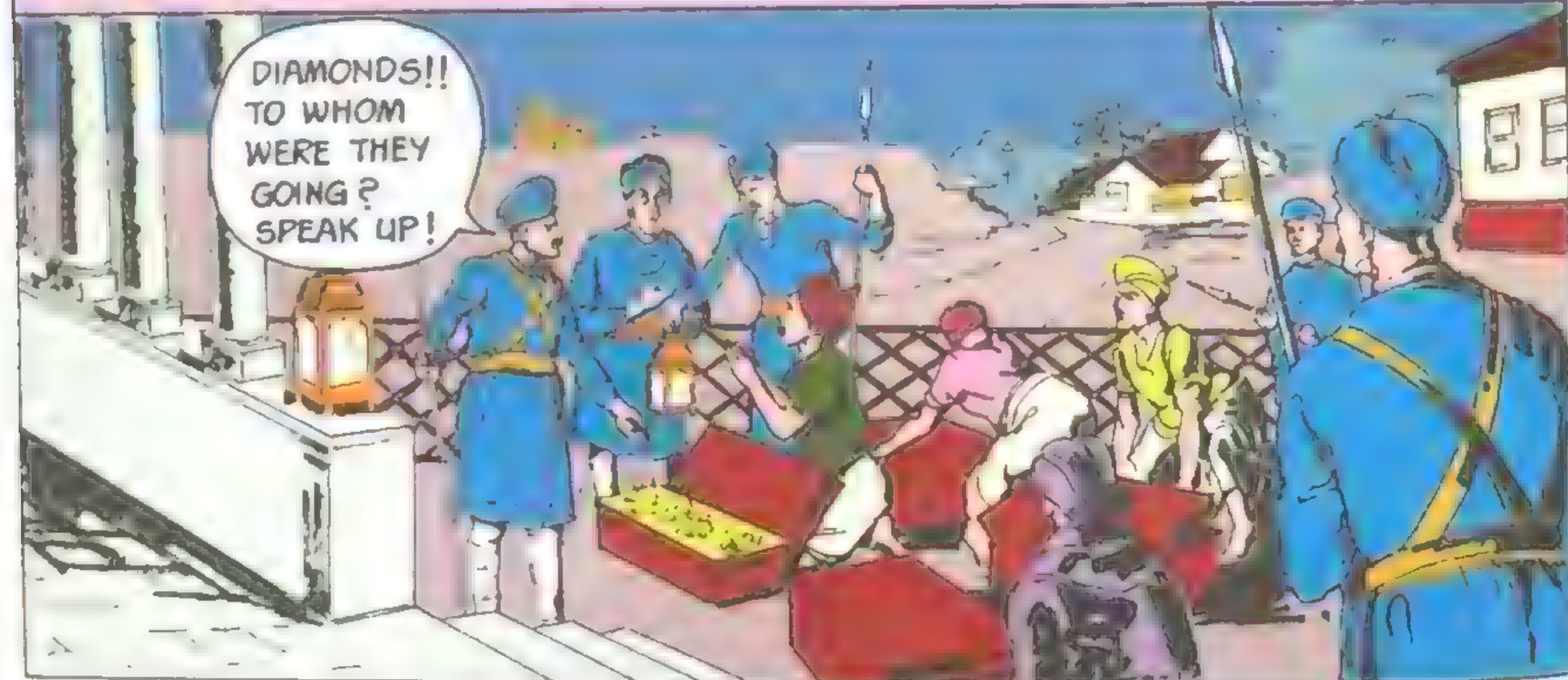


THE SECRET AGENT HAD A MEETING WITH HIS ASSOCIATES.





THE MEN WERE TAKEN TO AN ARMY GUARD POST WHERE THE BOXES WERE OPENED



MEANWHILE, KING PRATAPA RUDRA CAME THERE.



THE KING READ THE LETTER.

TRUSTED FRIEND, THIS IS THE SECOND CONSIGNMENT. ONE MORE WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION AT THE APPOINTED TIME...



WHEN THE FOUR MEN WERE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE —



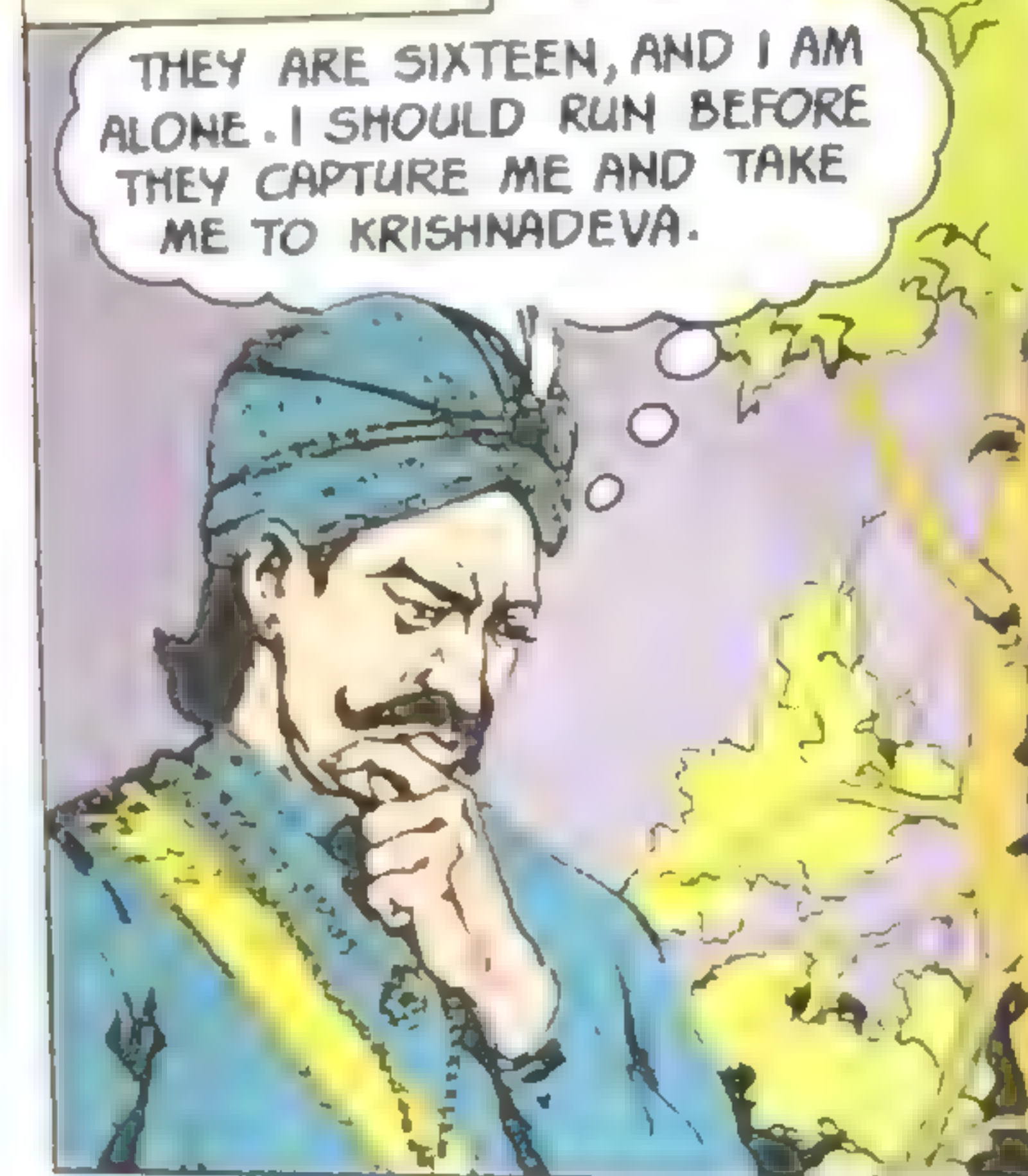
KING KRISHNA-DEVA RAYA HAS SENT THESE GIFTS.



THE TRAITORS! I'LL KILL THEM ALL! WITH MY BARE HANDS!



BUT PRATAPA RUDRA SOON REALISED THAT DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR.



MEANWHILE, A GUARD CAME RUNNING TO THE CHIEFTAINS.

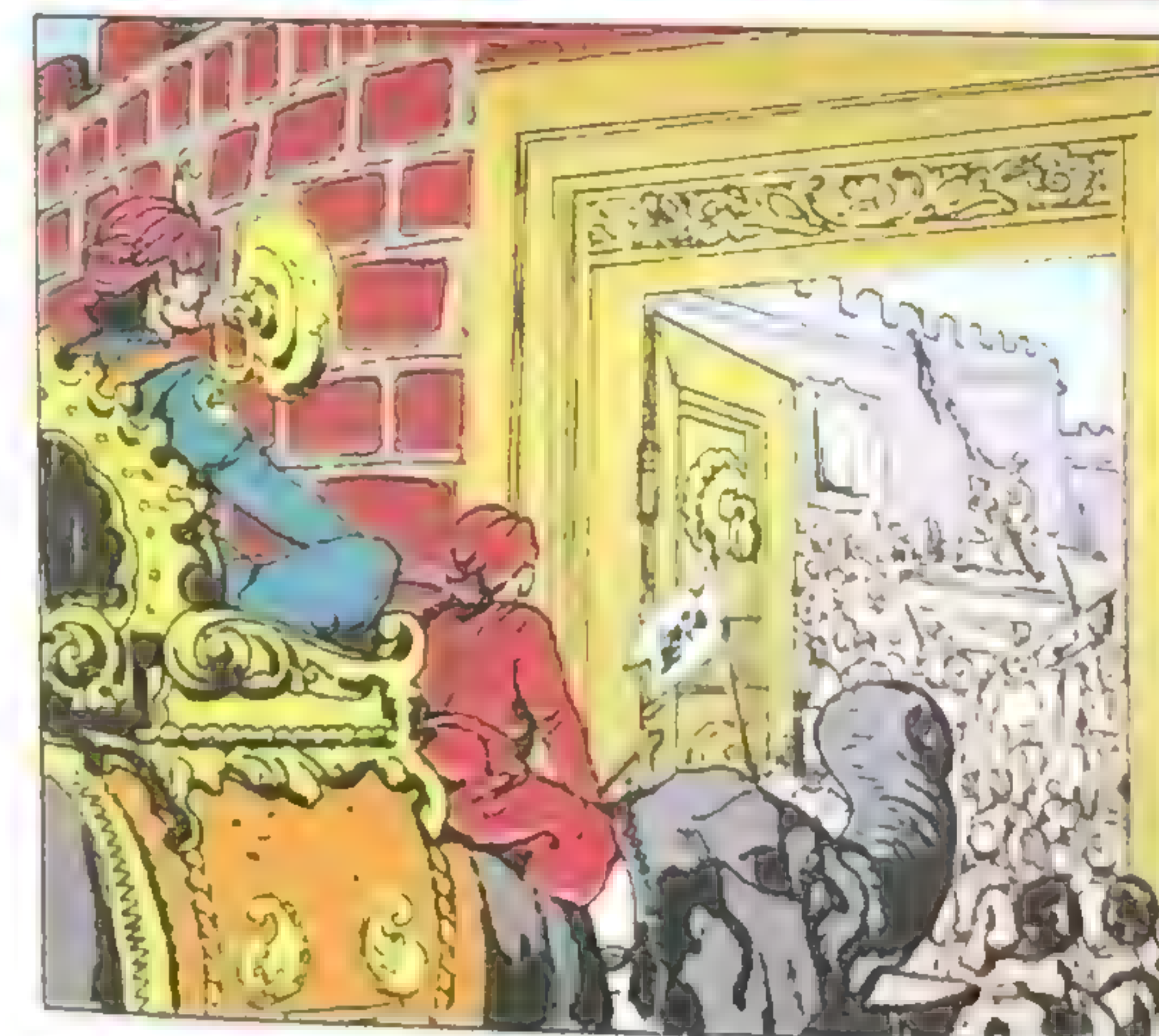
THE KING IS FURIOUS. HE CAUGHT THE MEN WHO WERE CARRYING A GIFT OF DIAMONDS FOR YOU FROM KRISHNADEVA RAYA.



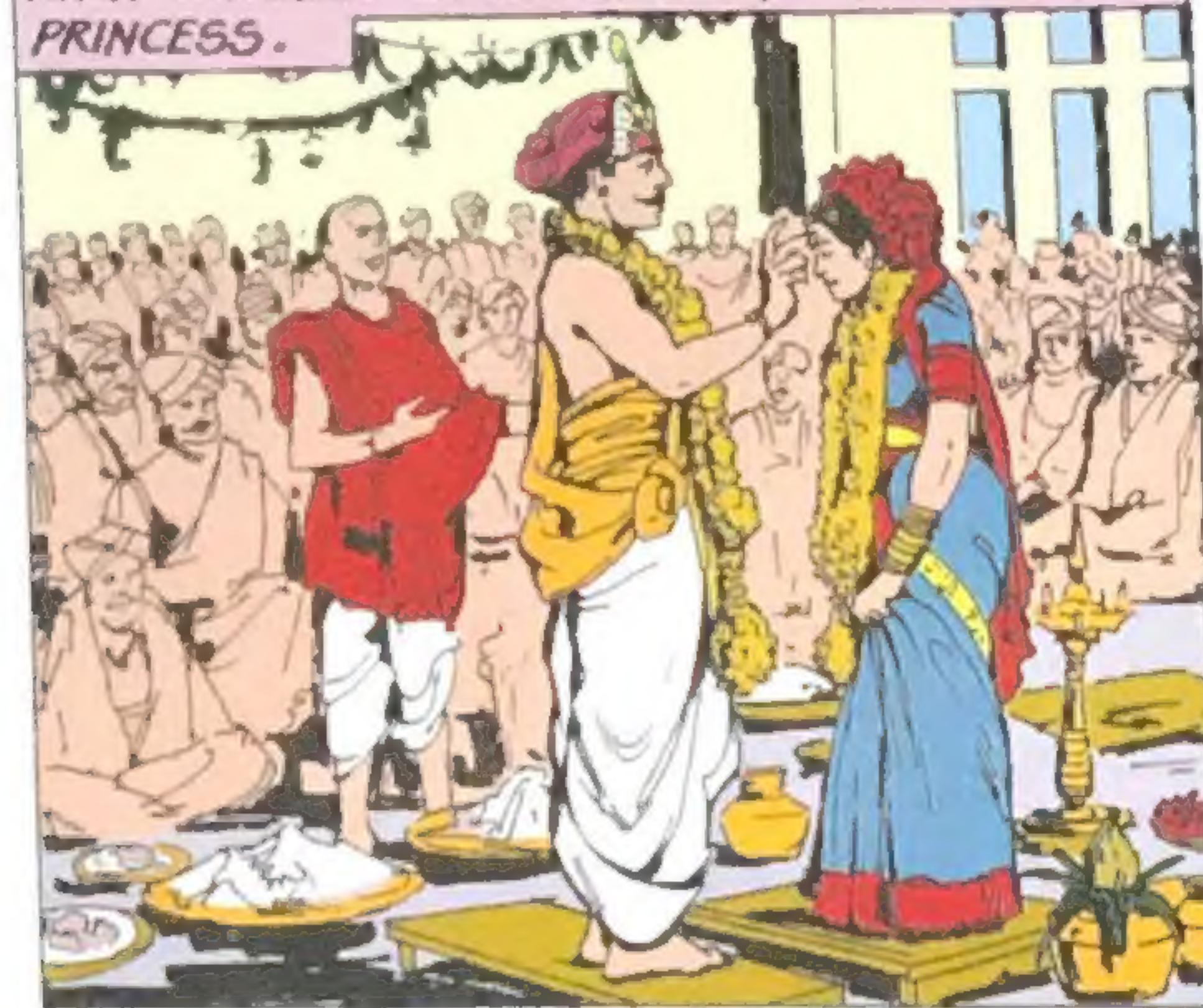
THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS QUIETLY SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE FORT WITH THEIR MEN.



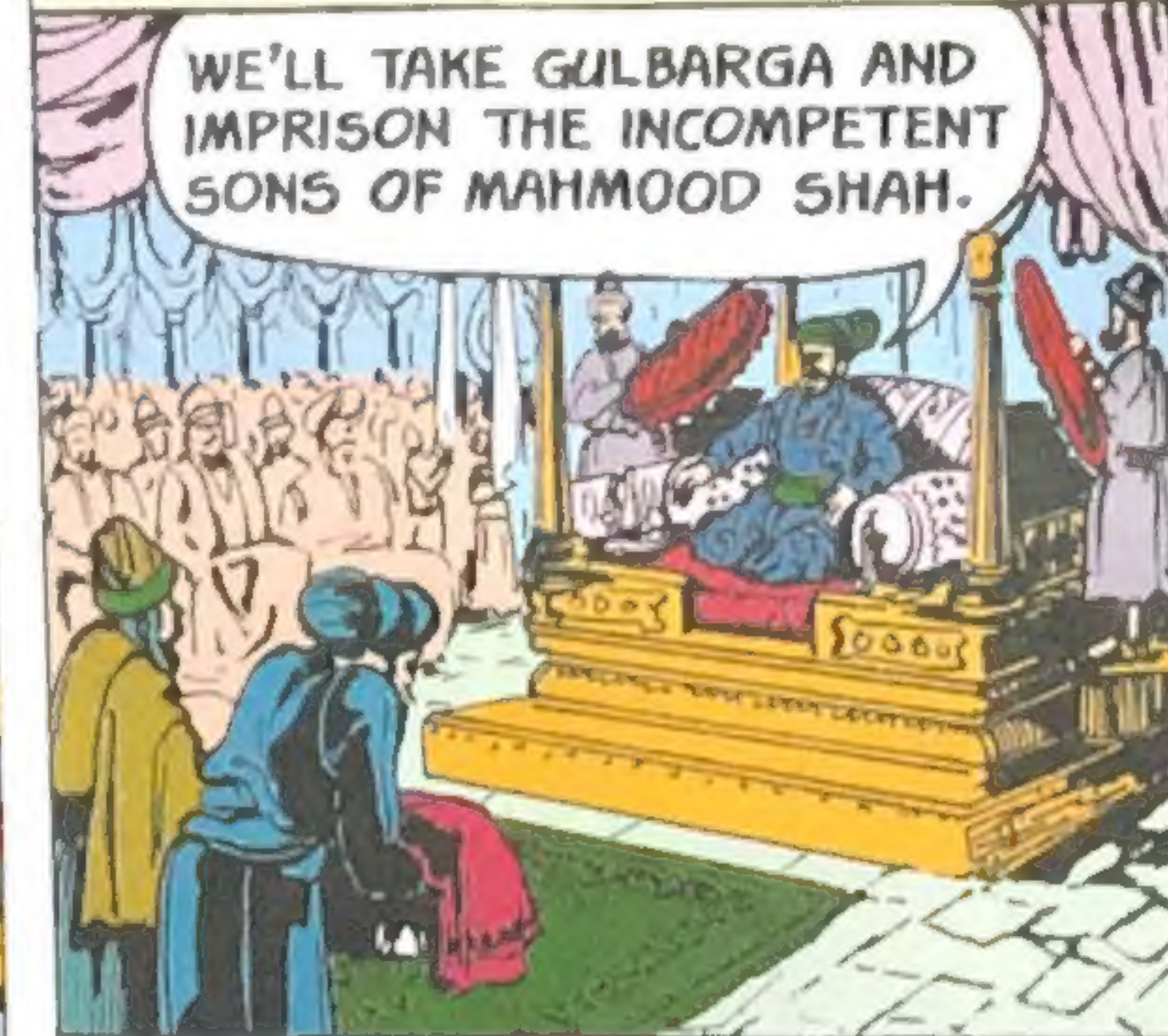
AND KRISHNADEVA RAYA MARCHED TRIUMPHANTLY INTO POTANUR. THIMMARASU'S RUSE HAD PAID OFF.



LATER, PEACE WAS DECLARED BETWEEN VIJAYANAGARA AND KALINGA. KRISHNADEVA RAYA MARRIED JAGANMOHINI, THE KALINGA PRINCESS.



MEANWHILE, AFTER THE DEATH OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING OF THE DECCAN, ISMAIL ADIL KHAN, HAD DECLARED HIMSELF THE INDEPENDENT RULER OF BIJAPUR.



WE'LL TAKE GULBARGA AND IMPRISON THE INCOMPETENT SONS OF MAHMOOD SHAH.

KRISHNADEVA RAYA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL AND FOUND THAT ADIL KHAN HAD TAKEN RAICHUR WHILE HE WAS AWAY.



WE WILL HAVE TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST HIM.

WE NEED HORSES.

SIDDI MERCAR, AN OFFICER IN THE COURT OF VIJAYANAGARA, WAS SUMMONED.



GO TO THE PORTUGUESE AND BUY HORSES WORTH 40,000 PAGODAS FROM THEM.

MANY DAYS PASSED. SIDDI MERCAR DID NOT RETURN. THEN SPIES CAME WITH NEWS.

SIDDI MERCAR HAS FLED WITH THE 40,000 PAGODAS TO BIJAPUR, YOUR MAJESTY.

THIS IS TREASON. SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO BIJAPUR REQUESTING ADIL KHAN TO REPATRIATE SIDDI MERCAR.



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED FROM BIJAPUR.



YOUR MAJESTY, THE RULER OF BIJAPUR PRO-FESSES THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF SIDDI MERCAR.

HE IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE. WE'LL MARCH AGAINST HIM AFTER WE TAKE RAICHUR WHICH RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO US.

KRISHNADEVA RAYA AND HIS ARMY SOON MARCHED OUT OF VIJAYANAGARA...



...AND LAID SIEGE TO RAICHUR.



AS SOON AS HE LEARNT OF THIS, ADIL KHAN RUSHED TO THE DEFENCE OF RAICHUR. HE CAMPED ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER KRISHNA.



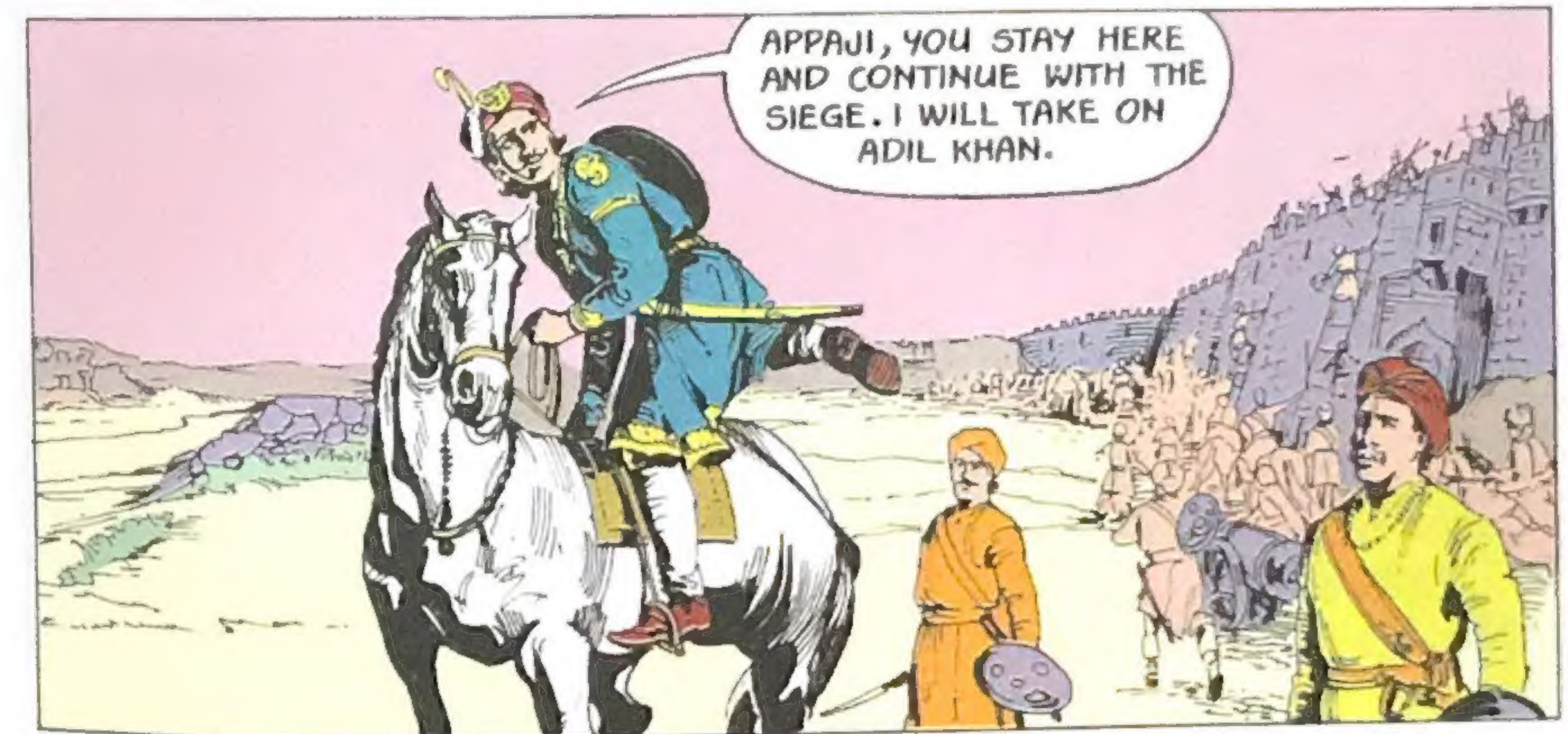
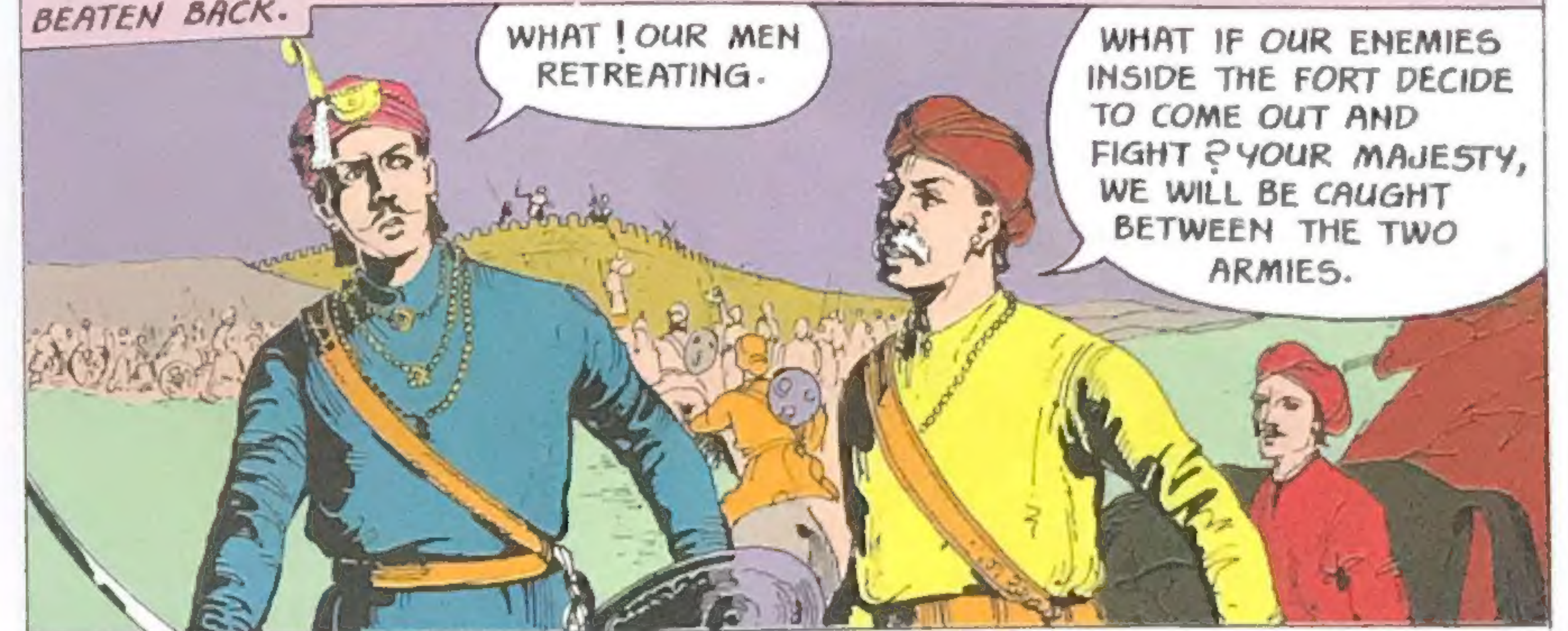
THE NEWS SOON REACHED KRISHNADEVA RAYA.

YOUR MAJESTY, ADIL KHAN HAS CROSSED THE KRISHNA RIVER AND WILL BE ATTACKING US FROM THE REAR.



APPAJI, SEND PART OF OUR FORCES TO STOP ADIL KHAN. LET THE REST CONTINUE WITH THE SIEGE.

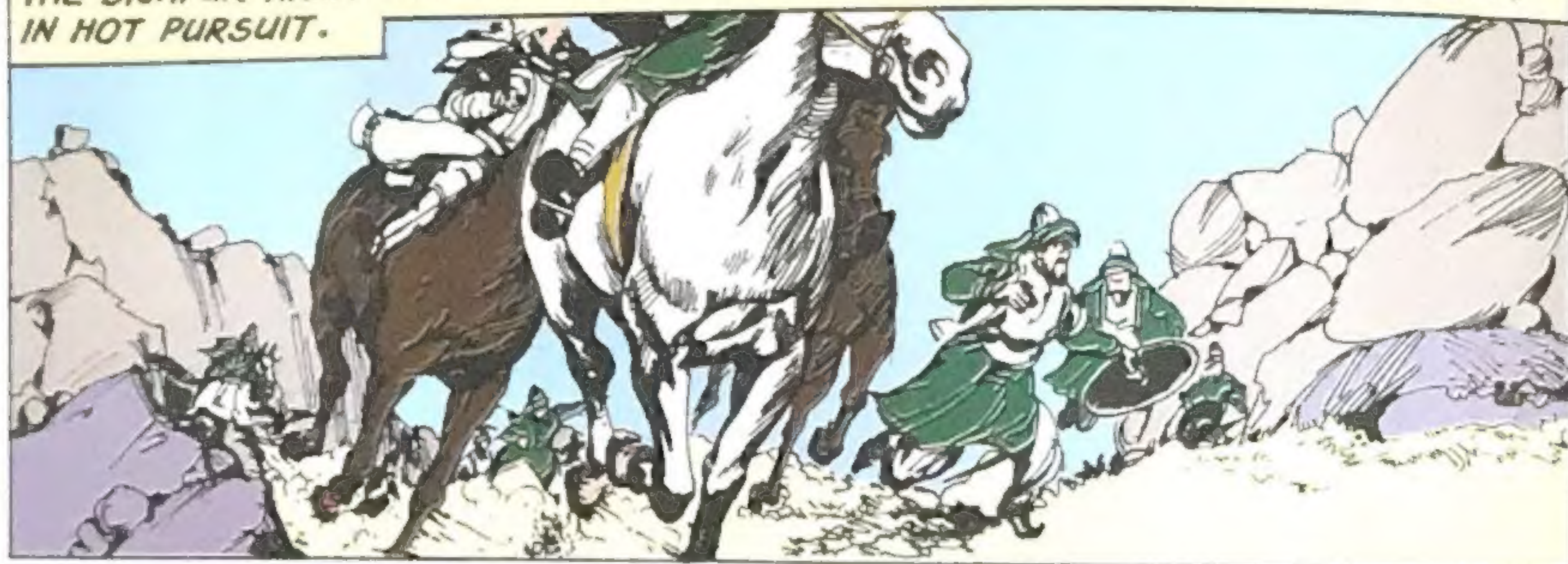
BUT THE FORCES SENT TO CHECK THE ADVANCE OF THE BIJAPUR ARMY WERE BEATEN BACK.



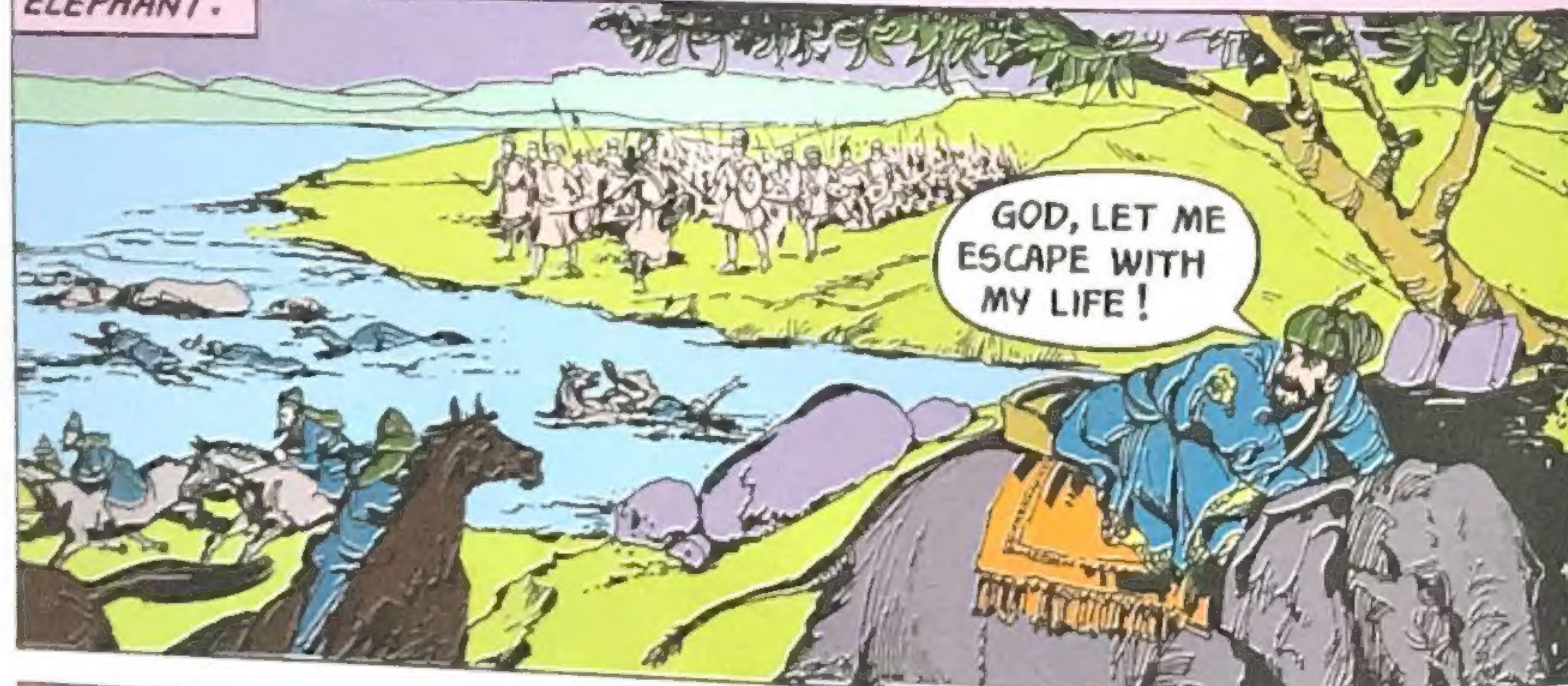
KRISHNADEVA RAYA CALLED OUT TO HIS RETREATING MEN.



INSPIRED BY HIS WORDS, THE SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH FRESH CONFIDENCE. NOW THE BIIAPUR ARMY WAS ON THE RUN WITH THE SOLDIERS OF VIJAYANAGARA IN HOT PURSUIT.



WHILE THOUSANDS OF HIS SOLDIERS AND HORSES FELL INTO THE RIVER WHICH WAS NOW IN SPATE, AND PERISHED, ADIL KHAN HIMSELF GOT AWAY ON AN ELEPHANT.



KRISHNADEVA RAYA RETURNED TO THE SIEGE OF RAICHUR. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A PORTUGUESE FRIEND OF HIS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



CHRISTOVO AND HIS MUSKETEERS GUNNED DOWN THE GUARDS AND THE CHIEF OF THE FORT.



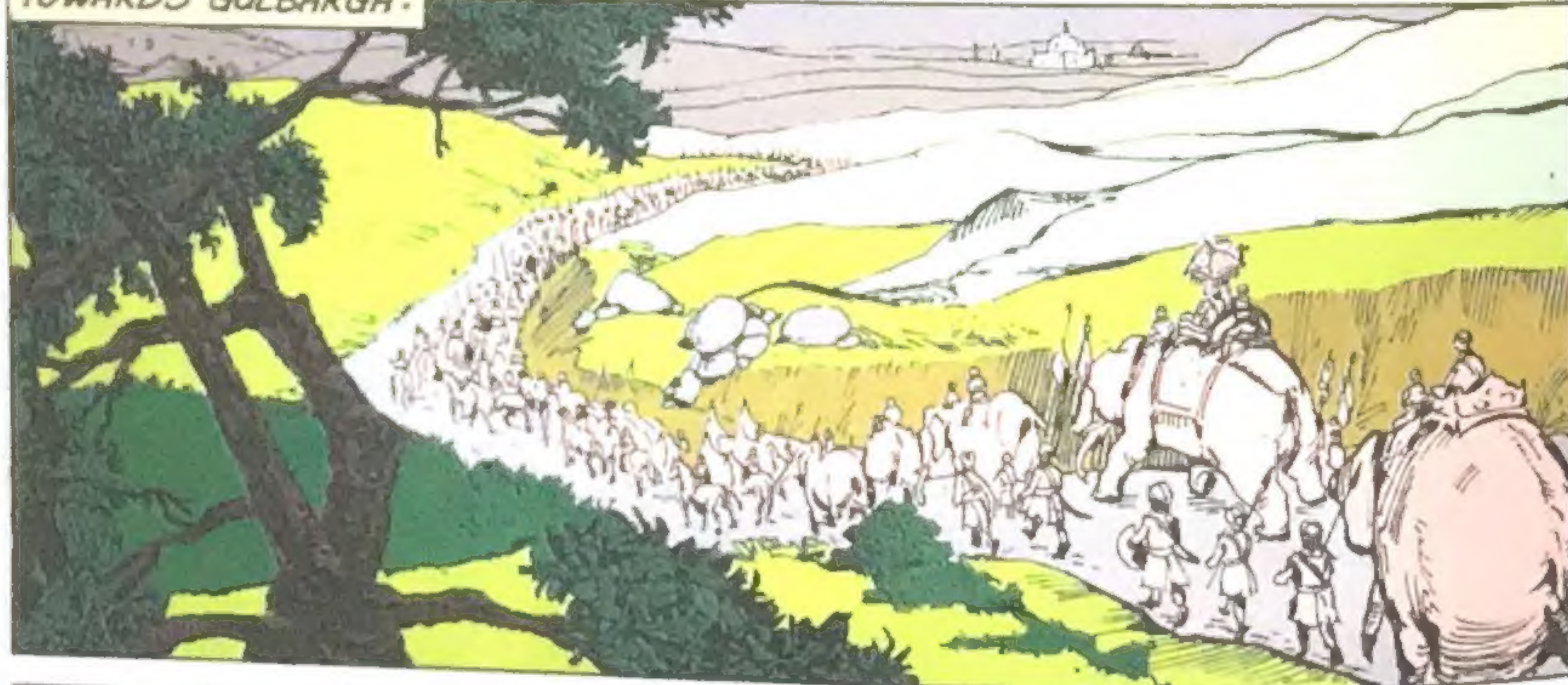
AND KRISHNADEVA RAYA AND HIS ARMY ENTERED RAICHUR.



ADIL KHAN SENT AN AMBASSADOR TO KRISHNADEVA RAYA.



ADIL KHAN NATURALLY DIDN'T TURN UP. KRISHNADEVA RAYA'S ARMY MARCHED TOWARDS GULBARGA.



GULBARGA SOON FELL. KRISHNADEVA RAYA GAVE ASSURANCES TO THE CITIZENS.



THE FIRST THING KRISHNADEVA RAYA DID AT GULBARGA WAS TO SET FREE THE THREE SONS OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING.



KRISHNADEVA RAYA MADE THE FIRST SON OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING OF THE DECCAN.



ON HIS RETURN TO VIJAYANAGARA, KRISHNADEVA RAYA VISITED THE TEMPLE OF VIRUPAKSHA.



IN A SHORT SPAN OF 20 YEARS, KRISHNADEVA RAYA MADE VIJAYANAGARA STRONG AND PROSPEROUS.